

May 22, 2003

TO: EQB Members and
Technical Representatives

FROM: Larry B. Hartman
EQB (Tel: 651-296-5089)

RE: Application of Minnesota Soybean Processors for a Pipeline Routing
Permit for 6.4 Miles of New 4.5-inch -inch Natural Gas Pipeline in the
Counties of Jackson and Nobles (EQB Docket # 03-62-PRP-MnSP)

Action Taken and Procedural Background:

On May 22, 2003, the EQB chair accepted an application from Minnesota Soybean Processors (MnSP) for a pipeline routing permit and a partial exemption from pipeline route selection procedures for the project referenced above. This action was taken based on the recommendation of EQB staff.

This project requires EQB review and is likely to come before the board for a decision in July. Copies of the MnSP application will be distributed to board members and technical representatives for review in the near future. EQB staff also expects to make the application available on the EQB Web site.

Acceptance of this application allows EQB staff to initiate the necessary review requirements of Minnesota Rules Chapter 4415. EQB staff has scheduled a public information meeting for the proposed pipeline. Notice of the public information meeting will appear in the EQB Monitor on May 26. A copy of the public information meeting notice is also enclosed.

Review Process

The MnSP application is being reviewed under the partial exemption process, which is an abbreviated form of review and permitting for pipelines. EQB review under this process does not require the applicant to identify an alternative route or require the EQB to hold a contested case hearing. EQB staff will hold a public information meeting in the area to receive comments on the application or any concerns people may have. To grant a partial exemption the EQB must determine there is no substantial environmental impact. When a partial exemption is granted, the EQB issues a pipeline routing permit with conditions that address construction and restoration practices.

I am the project manager for this project. Please direct any project-related questions to me at: (Tel: 651-296-5089) or by E-mail to: larry.hartman@state.mn.us

Attached is a brief project summary.

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